

U.S. Serial No.: 10/823,876

Title: "*Fastening Element and Fastening System for Plastic Containers*"

Filed: April 14, 2004

Response to Office Action of September 19, 2005

Page 2 of 2

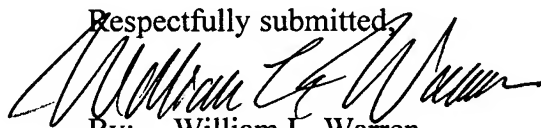
Figures 4 and 5 show another specific embodiment of the fastening element, namely that additional elements with a fastening function are arranged thereon.

The Applicant maintains the common feature and one of the important and distinguishing features of the invention is the vertical orientation of the flat connecting bridges (2, 2a) or the metal sheets (2, 2a), respectively, parallel to the axis of the first brushings 3. Further, the fastening element is constructed in that the brushings are introduced into the holes of a flange of a container and the connecting bridges make an accurate and close fitting at the lower edge of the flange. Therefore, the restriction requirement as between the different species shown in the Figures should be removed.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Communication mailed September 19, 2005. If there are any issues which can be resolved by telephone conference or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8081.

No additional fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted,



By: William L. Warren
Reg. No. 36,714
Attorney for Applicant

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP
999 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996
(404) 853-8000
SAB Docket: 18584-0014